

NCC Minutes 3/28/11

Open meeting: 7:03 p.m.

Present: R. Konisky, D. Mason, A. Watts, S. Shope, guests: Duane Hyde of the Nature Conservancy and Phil Auger

1) Administrative Business:

a) Minutes 2/21/11: A. Watts motions to accept, D. Mason seconds, all in favor YES.

b) Treasurer's report: A. Watts motions to accept, L. Hill seconds, all in favor YES.

2) Ongoing Business: D. Hyde of the Nature Conservancy

- D. Hyde is working with L. Case's brother on an agreement to purchase 42 acres to go into conservation. House and 8 acres would be sold separately by the estate. Will need to apply for permit to subdivide. Purchase price for the 42 acres is \$300,000. They would need \$45,000 contribution from the NCC. The closing is set for 7/12/11. The town could hold a "conservation restriction" and structure the money as a grant to the Nature Conservancy. No development, etc. would be allowed but there would be no obligation by the town to monitor the easement. The Nature Conservancy will probably transfer the land to Fish and Game as they hold a large amount of land along the Piscassic River.

- D. Mason stated that we will need to speak with the Selectmen and D. Hyde replied that he will meet with them himself.

-D. Mason motions that the NCC contributes \$45,000 to the purchase of the Case property. R. Konisky recused himself as he works for the Nature Conservancy. A. Watts seconded, all in favor YES.

3) New Business:

a) Schneer property: Phil Auger

-Mr. Schneer has been interested in conserving the property for some time and the property is now for sale. He is considering gifting 11.6 acres of the property to conservation, probably to the SLT. The acreage includes 1000 ft. of frontage on the river. P. Auger is suggesting the town offer to pay the administrative fees amounting to about \$15,000. The town would hold an executory interest and the SLT would be the primary. All members of the NCC agree this is a very worthy cause.

(2)

-S. Shope asked if there would be public access. P. Auger replied that it would be critical to know whether the town would require this and that if the land was used for agriculture, access would not be appropriate. Stipulations could be written into the deed.

b) Repair of Bald Hill culvert: Chris Albert of Jones and Beach

- They will be constructing a box culvert which will extend into the Daly easement. It is classified as a major impact project so he would like a letter of recommendation for the project to D.E.S. from the NCC. It will also require future maintenance. 95% of the cost is being funded by F.E.M.A..

- A. Watts asked whether the project has been approved by Mr. Daly. C. Albert replied that B. Knipstein, the town road agent, will be talking to him.

- D. Mason motions that we accept the proposal and draft a letter to D.E.S., A. Watts seconds, all in favor YES.

- R. Konisky will draft the letter.

4) Ongoing Business:

a) Membership: R. Konisky has tried to reach L. Carroll about his term ending, but has not heard back. R. Konisky will no longer be a member but will stay through the transition. S. Shope has volunteered to be the new chair.

b) Easement monitoring: E. Snyder has been asked by SLT to manage the Cole and Greenway properties so she will not longer be able to monitor them. L. Hill will ask her for a proposal to monitor the remaining 5 properties and whether she can suggest names to replace her on Cole and the Greenway.

c) Anderson property: Mrs. Anderson contacted E. Snyder to get permission for someone to use a metal detector around the old foundation. Will only involve some hand-digging. R. Konisky told her that would be fine.

d) ERLAC: They will need a member from the town of Newfields. Does not need to be an NCC member. Could make inquiry using the town e-mail list.

e) A. Watts: Town of Exeter being required by D.E.S. to decrease their nitrogen output levels to 3%. A. Watts to meet with Newfields Selectmen Tues. night to discuss possible ramifications for Newfields in the future.

5) Next meeting: 4/18/11

Adjourn 8:40 p.m.

NCC member L. Hill, 3/28/11

